



Childhood Connections

July 5, 2023

## Spotlight on Professionals

Spotlight on Professionals aims to share stories from those working in childhood programs. This includes all professionals such as home visiting, early intervention, child care, Head Start, preschool, and afterschool. These stories are also available on the [Early Connections website](#).



Photo Credit: Tammy Moore

This month, the spotlight is on Tammy Moore, a lead teacher at the University School for Young Children in Cape Girardeau, MO.

As her son graduated high school, he asked her, "Why should I go to college when you didn't?" Tammy recognized an opportunity to pursue her dream of higher education.

Tammy stated, "I wanted to show my children it's never too late to follow your dreams."

After 20 years of working retail, the store Tammy worked at closed. Tammy enrolled in the Child Care Guidance program at Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) with financial assistance, as the loss of her job qualified her for further support. Unemployment representatives guided her to a resource called SKILLUP. This program assisted with reimbursement for travel to and from classes. While attending SEMO, Tammy had the opportunity to be a student worker/lab student with the University School for Young Children. Together, these resources and opportunities allowed Tammy to complete her Child Care and Guidance associate degree in 2021.

Tammy is now preparing to graduate in December of 2023 with a bachelor's degree in child development. Since beginning her career at the University School for Young Children, Tammy has been promoted several times. She is now a lead teacher, and she feels more confident and inspired than ever. "I can proudly say that I will be the first in my family to graduate college! I hope that my journey inspires others to do the same."

REMINDER! MOPD system



The Missouri Professional Development (MOPD) system includes a workforce registry and trainings for professionals. Check out the following resources to help you learn how to use the new system:

- Review the MOPD [written instructions manual](#) for screen shots and directions on how to use the system.
- Watch short tutorial videos for common MOPD tasks on the [MOPD instructions](#) page.
- Review the list of DESE [pre-approved national conferences and out-of-state trainings](#).

After reviewing these resources, if you need additional assistance, contact us at [MOPD@dese.mo.gov](mailto:MOPD@dese.mo.gov) or call 573-884-3373.

#### UPDATE! Child Care Relief Funds

The following child care relief grant is currently available to child care providers.

- The Annual Training Costs grant supports child care providers with the costs associated with training costs in 2023. You can review the Instructions and Terms & Conditions on the [Annual Training Costs website](#). Applications close on July 15, 2023.

Coming soon!

Later this month we will announce another round of Paycheck Protection and Retention of Child Care Staff. These grants are one-time payments to child care providers currently operating with children enrolled and receiving care. Watch for details coming soon on the [Child Care Relief Funds website](#), under each application type.

#### NEW! Free Professional Development Opportunities

New training dates have been added for several trainings that support professionals working with young children and their families. Check out these training flyers for more details and registration information:

- [Ages & Stages Questionnaire](#)
- [Conscious Discipline for Home Visitors](#)
- [Second Steps Early Learning Curriculum](#)

#### REMINDER! Early Childhood State Advisory Council (ECSAC) Meeting

The next meeting of the ECSAC will be on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 12:30 p.m.

Read more about the council responsibilities on the [ECSAC webpage](#).

#### NEW! Seeking members for a provider stakeholder group

OOC is obtaining a new data system for the subsidy program. Review the Child Care Data System (CCDS) informational flyer [here](#).

We are seeking members for a provider stakeholder group and needing representation from provider types across the state.

If interested, providers can sign up to join CCDS stakeholder group [here](#). Deadline to sign up is July 15, 2023.

#### NEW! Email Address for the MOPD System

The Missouri Professional Development (MOPD) system that launched last month has a new email address: [MOPD@dese.mo.gov](mailto:MOPD@dese.mo.gov)

Early childhood professionals will begin receiving messages from this address instead of

## **UPDATE! Proposed Updates to Child Care Licensing Rules**

The Office of Childhood (OOC) filed proposed rule amendments to 5 CSR 25-500.010 Definitions, 5 CSR 25-500.102 Personnel, 5 CSR 25-500.112 Staff/Child Ratios, and 5 CSR 25-500.182 Child Care Program with the Secretary of State's office and the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

The proposed changes will be published in the July 17, 2023, edition of the Missouri Register. Drafts of the rule changes, as filed, are posted on the [Rules & Laws webpage](#). A chart is provided on the webpage that gives an overview of the proposed changes.

There is a link to a survey where you can submit comments on the proposed rules. The survey is open through August 17, 2023.

## **NEW! State Regulations for First Steps**

New state regulations for First Steps took effect on May 1, 2023, with several new requirements for First Steps providers to complete.

First Steps providers should check their WebSPOE message center often to stay up-to-date on the requirements and deadlines.

First Steps providers can contact the regional DESE Senior Program Specialist that covers the [SPOE region\(s\)](#) served by the provider for more information.

## **REMINDER! Encrypted Email Correspondence for Child Care Programs**

This is a reminder for child care providers who are licensed, license-exempt, contracted for child care subsidy, or in the process of becoming licensed, license-exempt, or contracted for child care subsidy.

OOC uses encrypted email messages to protect any personally identifiable information that may be contained in the message. An email message with [encrypt] in the subject line is time sensitive and only accessible for 14 days. Common items sent via email encryption include inspection reports, licenses, contracts, or information about a child's services or payments to providers.

the previously used Child Care Training email address.

Read more MOPD announcements on the [MOPD webpage](#).

## **UPDATE! Training**

On July 18, OneOp will present the webinar "[Making the Journey Towards Healthy Attachment](#)". This free webinar focuses on how attachment relationships are formed, how to promote a healthy attachment, and information on how to rebuild and assist families who experience separation.

Join professionals from Illinois, Michigan, and Texas for a discussion to explore what can impact how a healthy attachment is formed.

## **RESOURCE! Summer Eye Safety**

The [HHS](#)-funded [National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health](#) developed a variety of resources to support young children during the summer and throughout the year.

Resources include [tips for selecting sunglasses for children](#) and Children's Vision Digital Screen Time Tips, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Information on myopia, or near-sightedness,

If you have an email message with [encrypt] in the subject line that wasn't opened within the 14-day timeframe, please contact the email sender directly.

## UPDATE! Parent Education Programs

Contact information for the DESE Parent Education Program was recently updated.

This includes the DESE team members and consultants who are supporting the Parents as Teachers parent education program offered through local school districts.

Check out the [updated contact information and map online](#).

## REMINDER! Post Your Child Care License

This is a reminder for licensed child care facilities.

Post your license proudly! Ensure that a valid, current license is posted near your facility entrance, where it may be seen easily by parents or others who visit. Your child care license informs those entering your facility the type of care you are serving. This is what helps your child care facility stand out from others that may be operating with different specifications or an exemption.

Good examples of locations for the license include posting on the parent communication board or near the front door.

Bad examples of locations for the license include posting on the wall of the director's office or inside a binder on the sign in/out counter.

If you have recently gone through the revision process to change your license specifications, make sure you have the current, revised license posted.

## NEW! Trauma-Informed Schools Resource

The research about trauma is clear: trauma is incredibly prevalent and highly impactful. In schools, trauma not only shows up in the experiences of students, but educators also are impacted by the trauma they experience both outside the school and the trauma they experience within it.

which has been associated with long hours of device use is also available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Chinese](#).

## RESOURCE! Outdoor Play and Safety

As the temperatures increase, children and families are spending more time outdoors. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed [resources](#) to support the safety of children in early care and education settings during outdoor play.

The CDC agency funding also supported two new free training programs for early childhood educators that are available in English and Spanish:

- Prioritizing Educator Well-being Through COVID and Beyond
- Supporting the Child Vaccination Decision Process

## RESOURCE! Mobile Adventures in STEM

Free STEM activities for families are available through a grant funded by the [National Science Foundation](#).

The [Cyberchase Mobile Adventures in STEM](#), provides videos and activities in English or Spanish from the PBS

The Trauma-Informed Schools ECHO will use the [Missouri Model](#) as a guide to help participants *realize* the widespread impact of trauma, *recognize* the signs, symptoms and impact of trauma, as well as paths to recovery, *respond* by integrating knowledge into practice, and *resist* retraumatizing individuals.

The University of Missouri's Trauma-Informed Schools ECHO will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the month, beginning in September 2023. Read more about this program and how to register on the [ECHO flyer](#).

What is an ECHO? The Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) is an educational program that uses videoconferencing technology to create communities of learning focused on specialists sharing their expertise with community providers who can give their patients improved care in their own communities.

### **REMINDER! DHSS Summer Food Services Program**

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Summer Food Service Program provides breakfast, lunch, suppers, and/or snacks to children living in eligible areas during the summer months and during times of public emergencies, when children do not have access to free or reduced-price meals at school. An [online interactive map](#) is provided to help families in Missouri find out where their children can receive free meals this summer.

More information about the Summer Food Service Program is available [online](#) or by telephone at 888-435-1464. Individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or have a speech disability can dial 711 or 1-800-735-2966.

Community organizations that would like to become sponsors may also email the [Summer Food Service Program](#) or write to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Summer Food Service Program, P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102 for more information.

### **REVISED! ARPA Discretionary Spend Plan**

As part of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget process, the spend plan for Child Care American Rescue Plan

KIDS show "Cyberchase."

Information about math, science, and the environment through experiments, games, and crafts will be sent right to your phone. Text CYBER to 30644 to sign up.

### **FREE RESOURCE! Virtual Community Baby Shower**

Count the Kicks is hosting a FREE virtual Community Baby Shower on July 20th at noon. Register [here](#).

Learn about Count the Kicks, what to expect during labor and delivery, newborn basics, feeding, and more.

Count the Kicks is an evidence-based public health program that teaches expectant parents the method for and importance of counting their baby's kicks daily in the third trimester of pregnancy.

### **FREE RESOURCE! Baby Navigator**

Several national institutes are coming together to sponsor the Baby Navigator. The mission of Baby Navigator is to provide resources and tools for families to celebrate and support their baby's early learning and nurture the development of language and success in school and in life.

Act (ARPA) Discretionary funds was revised in order to reallocate funds from several activities in order to have funds to support the child care subsidy rate increase.

The revised spend plan is posted at the bottom of the Child Care Relief Funds [website](#).

Join Baby Navigator as soon as your baby is born, or any time until your baby turns 24 months old. Learn more on the [Baby Navigator website](#).

## Spotlight on Success

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs that are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.



Photo Credit: Stephanie Valdivia

Laquey Hornet Club is a 21st CCLC after school program located in Laquey, MO. Interestingly enough, Laquey is an unincorporated town with little more than a Dollar General, post office, and gas station.

The after school program has become a community hub while aiding in keeping students safe and in a place where they will thrive through learning.

To succeed in the after school realm and help high school students reach their fullest potential, the Hornet Club partnered with organizations in the surrounding communities. Partnership with the Chamber of Commerce gives students an opportunity to participate in a leadership academy where they learn valuable skills, including financial literacy, safety, and how to volunteer locally. A partnership with a local self-defense business brought our students self-defense classes. The newest partnership has been with Missouri S&T and 4-H to develop a Manufacturing Academy. This really opened students' eyes to the career of manufacturing. Students also take trips to the local college for more hands-on experiences.

Not only do partnerships benefit the after school program, they also aide in young minds' exploration and growth. There are many partners for the elementary after school program. These include the local University of Missouri Extension with the 4-H program and health eating programs, the local library district to aide in literacy efficacy and the love of reading, as well as the Pulaski County Health Department and the ACTIVE kids program. The ACTIVE (Adolescents Choosing To Improve Via Exercise) program provides students with life lessons while keeping their bodies active to promote a healthy lifestyle. The Health Department and Hornet Club also host a color run to encourage fun and movement.

Partnerships with the community are key when it comes to the success of the program. When we work together, everyone succeeds and achieves more!

## UPDATE! Preschool Development Grant



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A [recording](#) and the [PowerPoint slides](#) from the June webinar is available in case you were unable to attend and wish to hear the information. You can view archived webinars here:

- [May 2023](#)
- [April 2023](#)
- [March 2023](#)
- [February 2023](#)
- [January 2023](#)
- [November 2022](#)

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

### PDG B-5 Monthly Webinar

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, from noon to 12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser. Do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate!

For questions about the stakeholder webinar series, or suggestions for topics in future webinars, email us at [Childhood@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Childhood@dese.mo.gov).

### Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.

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